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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release April 26, 1984

FACT SHEET

PRESIDENT'S ANTI-TERRORISM LEGISLATION

The President has sent a message to Congress with a package of four separate bills to support a more systematic and strengthened effort to combat international terrorism. The President's message underscores the high priority his Administration places on actions to reduce the incidence of international terrorism, to protect Americans and American property from acts of terrorism, and to ensure that perpetrators of terrorist acts are brought to justice.

The four separate bills are highlighted below.

o Act for the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Hostage-Taking. This bill would amend the Federal kidnapping statute to provide for Federal jurisdiction over any kidnapping in which a threat is made to kill, injure or continue to detain a victim in order to compel third parties to do or abstain from doing something. The bill is enabling legislation for the International Convention Against the Taking of Hostages, which was adopted by the United Nations on December 17, 1979. At the time the President signed the instrument of ratification, the Congress was informed that the instrument would not be deposited with the United Nations until such time as enabling legislation had been obtained to permit full implementation of the convention.

o Aircraft Sabotage Act. This bill provides enabling legislation for the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Civil Aviation. The convention was adopted in Montreal in 1971 and ratified by the United States in November 1972. The legislation deals with certain criminal acts relating to aircraft sabotage or hijacking and would help the United States to satisfy its obligations under international law.

o Act for Rewards for Information Concerning Terrorist Acts. This bill would authorize the payment of a reward for information regarding acts of terrorism in the United States or abroad.

o Prohibition Against the Training or Support of Terrorist Organizations Act of 1984. This bill would enhance the ability of the Department of Justice to prosecute persons involved in the support of groups and states engaging in terrorism. The bill would prohibit firms or individuals from supporting or cooperating with such groups or states, as well as recruiting, soliciting, or training individuals to engage in terrorist activities.

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